

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00491 201543Z
ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF, IS, EG, UN
SUBJECT: UN/SYG FAULTS ISRAELIS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH AUSTRIAN
JOURNALIST UN/SYG WALDHEIM REPORTEDLY SAID ISRAELI
IMPULSES HAVE NOT FOLLOWED THOSE BY SADAT, AND
RADICALIZATION IN MIDDLE EAST IS TO BE FEARED UNLESS
ISRAEL TAKES MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE. HE RENEWED HIS
PROPOSAL FOR INTERIM TALKS BY PARTIES IN NEW YORK OR
ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF ARTICLE
IN "DIE PRESSE" OF JANUARY 20 BY CHIEF EDITOR THOMAS
CHORHERR REPORTING CONVERSATION WITH UN/SYG WALDHEIM
ON MIDDLE EAST.

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BEGIN TEXT: "THE IMPULSES GIVEN BY SADAT HAVE NOT BEEN
FOLLOWED UP BY ANY EQUAL ISRAELI IMPULSES.' THIS IS THE
OPINION OF KURT WALDHEIM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS. IN AN INTERVIEW FOR "DIE PRESSE" JANUARY 19,
WALDHEIM EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE BREAKING OFF OF
THE TALKS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAD CAUSED 'A VERY

SERIOUS SITUATION.' THIS IS WHY HE REPEATED HIS PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERIM ROUND OF TALKS OF ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, IN NEW YORK OR SOME OTHER CITY - 'FOR EXAMPLE, IT COULD ALSO BE VIENNA.' HE SAID THAT THE AUSTRIAN CAPITAL AS THE SITE FOR SUCH AN ARAB-ISRAELI MEETING HAD ALREADY BEEN SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED BEFORE AT UN HEADQUARTERS.

KURT WALDHEIM, ON A BRIEF VISIT TO VIENNA, EXPECTS BEGIN TO TAKE A 'MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE.' FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING THE CONTACTS THAT HAD BEGUN SO HOPEFULLY BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, CONCESSIONS BY ISRAEL WOULD NOW BE NECESSARY, WALDHEIM SAID. HE REGARDS THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE SINAI AREA AS A FOCAL POINT. HE SAID EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT WAS OF THE OPINION THAT HE COULD NOT TOLERATE FOREIGN DWELLINGS AND FOREIGN SOLDIERS ON THE SOIL OF THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF EGYPT, BUT THIS WAS PRECISELY WHAT BEGIN HAD AIMED AT WHEN DEMANDING THAT SO-CALLED 'SETTLEMENTS' REMAIN AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI. WALDHEIM POINTED OUT IN THE CONVERSATION TIME AND AGAIN THAT NOW ISRAEL COULD BE EXPECTED TO 'GIVE IMPULSES LIKE THOSE GIVEN BY SADAT.'

JUDGING FROM THE REMARKS OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, ANOTHER IMPORTANT QUESTION IN WHICH ISRAEL COULD NOW BE EXPECTED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IS THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. 'SADAT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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UTTERLY DISAPPOINTED,' WALDHEIM ARGUED.

ISRAEL IS NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND ITS OFFER OF AUTONOMY FOR THE POPULATION OF WEST JORDAN AND THE GAZA STRIP. 'SHOULD THIS POSITION NOT BE CHANGED, AND SHOULD THE CONTACTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL THUS REMAIN FINALLY BROKEN, A NEW RADICALIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD HAVE TO BE FEARED,' SAID WALDHEIM WITH CONCERN. THE AIM WOULD HAVE TO BE, NOW AS BEFORE, A 'GLOBAL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.' WALDHEIM ADDED THAT THIS PURPOSE WAS ALSO BEING SERVED BY HIS IDEA OF STAGING A ROUND OF TALKS OF ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT AS A KIND OF SAFETY NET IN BETWEEN THE PRESENT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS AND A NEW CONFERENCE IN GENEVA." END TEXT. WOLF

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